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[54] **METHOD FOR ENRICHMENT OF FETAL CELL POPULATION FROM MATERNAL WHOLE BLOOD SAMPLES**

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[21] Appl. No.: **401,131**

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[22] Filed: **Mar. 8, 1995**

Related U.S. Application Data

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- [51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G01N 27/26; G01N 33/49; B01D 21/26**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **210/806; 204/450; 204/518; 204/543; 210/660; 210/749; 210/767; 210/782; 210/787; 210/789; 424/533; 424/720; 435/2; 436/174; 436/175; 436/177; 436/178; 530/412; 530/413; 530/417; 530/427**
- [58] Field of Search 210/660, 748, 210/749, 754, 767, 782, 787, 789, 515, 516, 806; 435/2, 803; 424/720, 93 W, 533, 93.73; 436/174, 175, 177, 178; 530/413, 415, 417, 427, 412; 204/299 R, 301, 180.1, 450, 456, 457, 488, 518, 543, 544

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[57] ABSTRACT

A method for enriching rare cell populations from a whole blood sample by separating rare cell fractions from whole blood according to the relative charge density and/or the relative binding affinity for a leukocyte depletion solid phase matrix. The enrichment method may be operated stand alone, or as a pre or post-processing step in conjunction with a charge-flow separation method.

10 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

